

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #8488-83
23 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Council

FROM :

[redacted]
Assistant NIO for General Purpose Forces

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SUBJECT : Defense Issues Seminar, Hudson Institute,
17-18 November 1983 [redacted]

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1. I attended this broadly represented seminar and found it rewarding and provocative. Hudson Institute, [redacted] remains forthright, optimistic and challenging. The topics covered during the seminar seemed disparate but the essential thread of Soviet presence and influence pervaded every presentation including the lessons of the Falklands.

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2. Several very important incongruities became evident early on the first day and became topics of considerable debate and confusion. The most prevalent problem was the generally accepted thesis that the next war, if deterrence fails, would be relatively short, deadly and costly. Paradoxically, other presentations showed the US continuing to plan for a long mobilization and conversion of industry to a wartime posture. The Civil Defense and Damage Limiting Systems presentation received little credence and further stretched credibility by positing the new [redacted] doctrine on "nuclear winter," a new analysis and conclusion which apparently throws all previous estimates on recovery out the window.

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3. [redacted] presentation stressed that the USN is likely to continue with the same priorities as the past twenty years, but he predicted, "heretically," that the Soviet Navy would concentrate on a larger, more capable submarine force to counter US SLOC's to the detriment of the surface fleet and power projection during the next twenty years.

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4. Copies of several presentations are available to whomever can use them. These are listed in attachment, which states the program, list of participants and biography of all speakers. I am, of course, available to discuss these issues should there be interest.

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Attachment:
As stated

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